

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 704

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Andrew Smith,
recipient of the Ohio Valley Conference 2014
Thurston Banks Award for Distinguished
Academic Service.

WHEREAS, it pleases this General Assembly to recognize those professionals in higher education who endeavor to provide opportunities and lend loyal support to our college and university students so they may enjoy the activities of collegiate sports while aspiring to the highest levels of academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) of collegiate sports places great priority on high academic achievement as a universal goal of all student athletes; in 2013, the conference established the Thurston Banks Award for Distinguished Academic Service to recognize individuals with at least five years of service at an OVC school for their contributions to student-athletes' academic success, learning, and development as well as commitment to their school's athletics program; and

WHEREAS, Professor Andrew Smith, English instructor at Tennessee Technological University (TTU), is the deserving recipient of the 2014 Thurston Banks Award for Distinguished Academic Service; and

WHEREAS, he is described by TTU colleagues as a dedicated teacher who has ample time for his students and works in myriad ways to enable them to earn their way; he is a champion for young people who clearly understands and appreciates the need to assist them to withstand and master the academic rigors of college; and

WHEREAS, Professor Smith is an ardent sports fan, especially of basketball, who tirelessly endeavors to bring classroom success to fruition for all student-athletes, which was exemplified when TTU's men's basketball team won the 2011-2012 OVC Team Academic

Achievement Award for the highest percentage of student-athletes named to the OVC

Commissioner's Honor Roll; and

WHEREAS, TTU strives to place its athletes high on the ladder of academic success; the lofty goal of the athletic department and its thirteen sports teams is to have a championship ring on one hand of each athlete and a diploma in the other; and

WHEREAS, Professor Smith is the faculty head of The Tree House Environmental Learning Village, as well as the former campus chapter president of the American Association of University Professors. He has served on the TTU Service Committee, the faculty senate, the administrative council, as a faculty advisor for UNCLE (Underrepresented New and Creative Life Experience) and SEAC (Student Environmental Action Committee), and has served on the TTU Sports Hall of Fame selection committee; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Smith is an outstanding educator who has demonstrated the volunteer spirit of a true Tennessean in his extraordinary support for maintaining the highest academic standards among TTU's student-athletes, and it is fitting that this body recognize him on the occasion of his acclaim; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Tennessee Technological University Professor Andrew Smith, recipient of the Ohio Valley Conference 2014 Thurston Banks Award for Distinguished Academic Service, thank him for his dedication to academic success of all student-athletes, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.